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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 209

to vote on an issue of whether or not we should put this on the ballot to let the people vote. I think that if we vote in favor ultimately of putting this on the ballot, implicitly we are saying, as a Legislature, that we think this is something that you should vote for. I don't think we should use this as a public poll. I don't think we should decide that how we run our state government or how we fund state government based on a yes or no public opinion poll. I think that we have to look at this, evaluate it in the light of the economics, of the circumstances, in the light of the management that has been utilized by the State Fair Board to date, and I believe that we should, at this point, bracket this matter until April 15 of 2004. That's not the end of the State Fair. That would be the end of this particular proposal at this time and perhaps there are other methods. I doubt that the coffee cans that have been put in there by the Governor or at the request of the Governor have succeeded very well or we would have heard about it. I think it's raised a few thousand dollars. We don't know what's happened with the checkoff but we do know what's happened with people coming or not coming to the State Fair. I think they have already voted to a large extent with their feet. And I think that this is a matter that we should decide at this moment as to whether this issue should be put on the ballot. With 23 days left in this legislative session and the very burdensome matters that we have to look forward to in the coming days, I don't think this is a matter that should be on our plate. So I would encourage you to vote for this bracket motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pederson. The question before us is whether the bill shall be bracketed till April 15. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Could I request a call of the house please?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Thompson has requested the house go under call. All in favor please vote aye, and opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 1 nay to place the house under call, Mr. President.